

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

(No. 65) Vol. IV, No. 13



Jan. 5, 1942

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Published every week and copyright, 1941, in the U. S. A. by IN FACT, Inc., 19 University Place, New York, N. Y.
One Dollar (52 issues) a year. Foreign \$3.00 a year.

Phone, AL. 4-6995

Order of Merit

IN addition to a Nazi medal which has four swastikas on it, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. (son of a democratic Congressman who denounced the "Money Trust," exploitation of labor, social and economic injustices and everything Hitler and the Mikado represent) also received the Order of Merit of the Rising Sun, third class, from the Son of Heaven. Lindbergh apologists say the swastika was forced upon him. As we go to press Lindbergh is reported to have volunteered for the air corps. But there are no reports of the return of either the Nazi or Japanese decorations.

CIO to Replace "Arizona"

UNITED Auto Workers (CIO) have pledged US Treasury to buy \$50,000,000 worth of defense bonds or more, enough to replace the battleship Arizona, sunk in Pearl Harbor. This is the largest single pledge on record.

Railroad Brotherhoods have asked affiliates to take \$75,000,000.

Int'l Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL) has voted to take \$25,000,000. Employers, with workers' agreement, will deduct 5% of wages, which will be paid in defense stamps.

Newspaper Aids Enemy

THE same newspaper—the largest in the U S—which for years advocated giving the Far East to Japan, and throwing in the Philippines, and the destruction of Chinese democracy, all because there was more money to be made trading with Japan than with China—and the same newspaper which a few days before the Axis declared war on America betrayed to Germany one of the most important military secrets of the U S War Dep't—now suggests that the U S prepare to fight the Ally which has been bearing the brunt of the war. In an editorial Dec 23 the NY Daily News (2,000,000 daily, 3,000,000 Sundays) deplores the fact the Russians are defeating the Nazis; it fears "that when and if the first enemy on our list—Germany—is put down, we may find that Communist Russia is the next enemy we've got to fight . . . let's not kid ourselves that Russia can't some day turn up as Enemy No 3." Coughlin's Social Justice takes the same line; so did the Deutscher Beobachter before gov't agents seized the Nazi Bund paper.

Coughlin's Hero

CROWDED out in our review last week of press predictions on the Russian-German fighting was this exultant paragraph in Father Coughlin's Social Justice (Oct. 20):

"Eclipsing the achievements of Alex-

Nation United to Fight Fascism, But Big Business

Places Profits Above Patriotism, Sabotages War Effort

PEARL HARBOR united most of America in the war against the Axis, or international Fascism, the announced enemy of every form of democracy.

Among the hold-outs the most important is Big Business, and the Congressmen it controls, notably the southern bloc in the House of Representatives which prefers to destroy labor unions rather than the union of the Mikado and Hitler.

Also, the \$-a-year men, who still place their corporations ahead of the nation, and who are still haggling over contracts for plants which will provide the materials for winning the war.

Also some publications which while professing patriotism are seeking to drive wedges between the allies; for example, the NY Daily News and Coughlin's Social Justice. And the big city commercial press which still fights labor, still demands restrictive laws which would equal the Mussolini and Hitler near-slavery system.

Generally speaking, the situation in Washington is this: the representatives of 11,000,000 organized workers have pledged complete support to the program for smashing Hitlerism; both the AFL and CIO denounced Fascism long before the European war started, recognized it years ago as the chief enemy of the people of the world. On the other hand capital, whose spokesmen such as Knudsen, Schwab, Myron Taylor of U S Steel, Ford, etc., indorsed Fascism for years, is still placing profits above patriotism, still not united in America's all-out war against the Fascist Axis.

Who Delayed America's War Effort?

It is not the intention of IN FACT to create personal devils. From May 1940 to the present day the real villain in the American defense program and the present war program has always been money (as the Bible has it) or the profit motive, or Big Business, or the vested interests (as Henry George named them), or Capitalism (as Karl Marx called the same interests), or plutocracy, or whatever label the reader prefers to affix to the system which places private interest above the general welfare of the people.

These interests in Washington are represented by many \$-a-year men, by General Motors, U S Steel, Alcoa and other officials who cannot distinguish between the welfare of their corporations and the welfare of the United States. None of them is anti-Fascist, and most of them think that what is good for U S Steel is good for the U S A.

The worst example is Knudsen. Knudsen has been looking after the general welfare of General Motors—also Chrysler and Ford. Throughout 1941 millions of pleasure cars rolled off the assembly line instead of tanks and planes. Labor had a plan for producing both but Knudsen sabotaged it.

The next villain is Jesse Jones, Texas banker and newspaper owner. According to Michael Straight (Washington correspondent New Republic) Jones and Knudsen sabotaged the plan of Emil Schram and Clifford Durr (of RFC and Defense Plant Corp) in July 1940 to build more defense plants. Jones then sabotaged the Schram plan for artificial rubber which would have given us 100,000 tons a year instead of 10,000. Jones sabotaged the aluminum, magnesium, steel and rubber programs. His remaining in office, says Straight, would be a more tragic loss to America than the losses in Hawaii. Knudsen represents the Nat'l Ass'n of Manufacturers; he represents Big Business. Jones represents banking. Both represent the social-economic system which is to blame for sabotaging our war against Fascism.

Labor Press Service Charges Victory Program Sabotage

"Virtual sabotage of the administration's Victory Program of production," is charged against certain dollar-a-year men and barnacled Army and Navy leaders by the Federated Press, a pro-labor news service which frequently prints the facts the standard press suppresses and always tries to counteract the anti-labor poison of the big newspapers. FP continues:

Labor continues its drive for full wartime use of industry. Obstacles in the

path of the program have come from the business-as-usual sources represented by OPM director-general William S Knudsen.

The "victory program" was launched in October and called for a total expenditure of about \$170,000,000,000 instead of the \$70,000,000,000 program now contemplated.

Under the "victory program" the average monthly expenditure for armaments would be about \$3,500,000,000 instead of the present rate of \$1,750,000,000 a month.

Stacy May and Robert Nathan of the OPM's research staff were assigned to find out from the army and navy what their requirements would be in terms of machine guns, airplanes and similar instruments of war. Then they proceeded to break down these requirements in terms of tons of steel, bales of cotton, and other war materials.

This program was well under way when the Japanese attacked the U S and Germany and Italy formally included this country in their list of enemies. Roosevelt gave the green light to the "victory program."

The Supply Priorities & Allocations Board submitted to the Army and Navy its breakdown of required materials and asked for a schedule of production. "What will you need when?" the army was asked.

It was contemplated that industry could then be set to work producing the needed items in order and an attempt would be made to get deliveries of the needed products at the needed time.

At this point, the story goes, Knudsen stepped in to declare his objections. The figures, he said, were all wrong and all that was really needed was an additional \$10,000,000,000 or so. The army brass hats agreed and told the SPAB people to come back in March or April and the army would tell them if they needed anything else.

Such is the status of the "victory program." It is a victim of a desire on the part of Knudsen and those associated with him to avoid the great shake-ups in industry that would be required to get an additional \$100,000,000,000 worth of production.

The result is a fierce fight between Vice-Pres Wallace, Donald Nelson and Leon Henderson of SPAB and Knudsen and the business-as-usual crowd associated with him. Sidney Hillman, labor's representative in the OPM, leans toward the Knudsen camp, according to the SPAB crowd.

Hillman's break with the New Dealers on SPAB came when Henderson and Nelson proposed that Henderson's office of civilian supply work out a bare minimum schedule of civilian requirements.

Industry branch chiefs in the OPM would then be instructed that any industrial capacity above that needed for the bare civilian requirements should be converted to production of war goods. To carry through this conversion they would be given full powers.

The Henderson-Nelson plan also called for the appointment of William L Batt, an anti-business-as-usual person, as deputy OPM director in charge of this reorganized establishment. Knudsen could be used for speech-making.

This plan was aborted by Knudsen and Hillman who announced that industry branch chiefs would report directly to them. No mention was made of the proposed civilian requirement schedule.

Also cause for anger between the SPAB people and Hillman was the latter's insistence that copper production plans be left to his labor-management committee rather than be handled by SPAB, which had hearings scheduled. The SPAB hearings were called off.

The issue is gradually coming into the open. Labor unions know what is taking place in their industries and they are not loath to speak up and criticize those who, they feel, are laying down on the job of getting the most out of the machines.

Continued pounding by the labor organizations will result, it is believed, in an airing of the defense organization and the putting of meaning into the "victory program."

Washington Officials' "Long Hawaiian Week-End"

More than a year ago CIO auto workers' officials presented the gov't with plans for turning the peacetime pleasure car industry into an airplane, tank and war industry. In succession they produced the Reuther Plan for plant conversion, the Murray Plan for industry councils of management and labor, the Thomas 6-point plan giving auto labor "an opportunity for full participation in the coming defeat of Hitlerism."

This January at least 350,000 auto workers will be out of jobs, and there will be many less planes and tanks because neither their plans nor any similar one has been put into operation. Pres Thomas at an open meeting in Detroit Dec 22 censured Director Knudsen of OPM for smothering the CIO plan. Sec'y Addes of CIO publicly stated: "While we, the auto workers, were hard at work, sensing the country's danger and preparing to meet it, both industry and government were enjoying a long, long Hawaiian week-end. If our plan had been followed there would be plenty of planes today and plenty of trained men, so that even the disastrous Hawaiian week-end would not have deprived the U S of mastery of the Pacific."

"Business-As-Usual" Keeps Two-Thirds Machines Idle

One of the most tragic instances of the sabotage of the defense program by Big Business resulted in almost two-thirds of the tooling machinery in the Detroit District remaining idle up to now. Pres Thomas, testifying before the Tolan Com-

ander the Great; surpassing the startling performances of Napoleon, the disparaged paperhanger of Munich topped over the colossus of 13 million Soviet troops whose 25,000 tanks and 12,000 airplanes were poised three months ago to raze Europe with the connivance, the moral and financial support of Churchill and Roosevelt, the erstwhile champs of democracy, who may be regarded as its chumps."

More Pro-Japanese

IN addition to the list of American Japanese agents (Dec 22) IN FACT stated that the outstanding pro-Jap on the Pacific Coast and leading China-hater, was Ralph Townsend.

On Sept 25 there was organized the Committee on Pacific Relations for the purpose of "strengthening relations between the U S and Japan and urging mediation in the Jap-Chinese conflict." Mark R Shaw of Boston, former YMCA sec'y in Japan, O K Armstrong and Ralph Townsend were the leaders of this appeasement organization.

Townsend is an editor of Scribners Commentator, a pro-Fascist, anti-Semitic magazine closely associated with the defunct America First, and disseminator of Charles and Ann Morrow Lindbergh's blood, race and color falsehoods.

Wm J Baxter, NYC, ex-president Silk Research Bureau, has spread pro-Jap publicity. He also wrote "Japan and America MUST Get Together."

Rev John Cole McKimm of Peekskill, NY, is a contributor to Japanese American Review, registered with State Dep't as propaganda agency of Tokyo.

Dr Payson J Treat, prof at Stanford U, also wrote for this magazine. He said: "I happen to be more concerned about the righteousness of our own conduct than about the shortcomings of Japan." The shortcomings of Japan are coming home to roost on these gentlemen.

Omitted from IN FACT's first list of Japanese agents was the name of Major General John F O'Ryan. His name did not appear on our State Dep't mimeographed list. Our leading Irish correspondent wrote in to ask if the fact Gen O'Ryan is doing patriotic war work now (an appointee of Gov Lehman's) was the cause for "suppression." Another reader suspects the fact IN FACT's editor was attached to the Rainbow Division, which O'Ryan commanded in World War I.

Gen O'Ryan not only did a job for Japan and received Japanese money, but his whole history is that of a native Fascist. The American Civil Liberties Union said in its 1935 report: "Following a series of conflicts with Mayor LaGuardia over picketing, redbaiting, and the policing of primaries, Gen O'Ryan resigned in Sept 1934 as police commissioner. . . . O'Ryan clearly manifested the disregard of a military man for civil rights." O'Ryan ordered the NYC police to use bloody force and violence to break up peaceful labor, liberal and jobless meetings. Recently O'Ryan headed an organization to buy guns for "democratic" Finland. Aug 3 1940 O'Ryan was quoted saying the Chinese were to blame for the Japanese invasion of China (AP dispatch, Shanghai).

Who Armed Japan?

"FROM Newport News on Jan 17 and Feb 23 1932, 5,000 tons of nitrate of

soda, chief ingredient of TNT, were shipped to Japan. Congressman (Hamilton) Fish reported it to the House (of Representatives). From Delaware, Maryland, and NJ plants, nitrates and powder (DuPonts) and airplanes and airplane motors (Curtiss-Wright, Pratt & Whitney) are being shipped to Japan almost every week of 1933 and 1934, and if Japan is the 'logical' enemy, American soldiers and sailors will be killed by American munitions, that California cities will be bombed and civilians killed by the shell and gas and motors made in America"—page 322, "Iron, Blood & Profits," published in 1934.

In Fact Readers in Army

ENCOURAGING letters have reached IN FACT from several of its readers who have volunteered in the past few months. Here is a particularly good letter:

"As a private in the Army of the U.S., I find your paper invaluable in keeping my mind clear of all false ideas. . . . Despite the fact American soldiers, marines and sailors are being killed with American-made goods, you must realize that we must win this fight against Fascism outside our country, then sir, we will cope with our own brand of Fascisti. I feel optimistic about the eventual victory of the working class in this great nation of ours. Keep punching.

"Private JGM, Camp Lee, Va."

Incidentally, IN FACT's mailing room lost 20 percent of its personnel when Gene Raleigh enlisted in the air corps. He is in training at Camp Dix, NJ.

Dies Lies Again

ALTHOUGH Congress has given Martin Dies hundreds of thousands of dollars to investigate "subversive" activities, Dies devoted several years to smearing labor and liberal organizations. President Roosevelt accused the Dies Committee of spreading falsehood, of using disgusting methods. Nevertheless Congress always renewed appropriations.

Dies promised over a period of years to expose Nazi agents but failed to take action.

It was the fearless journalist John L. Spivak who wrote two books (Secret Armies, Honorable Spy) exposing Nazi and Japanese agents and spies. He named the ships carrying fuel oil for Jap submarines off California. Today the U.S. Navy is hunting these submarines, which cannot operate unless fueled by disguised fishing smacks. Dies refused to act on the Spivak information.

Last month, coincident with National Ass'n of Manufacturers convention and House passage of Smith anti-labor bill, Dies, who again needs money, issued a blast against labor, alleging there are

mittee, said of 1577 machinetools in 34 Detroit plants, 337 are idle during the week, the remainder operating an average of 70.4 hours. Thomas said: "With capacity operations of all these machines on the basis of a 160-hour week, total weekly production would be equal to 252,320 machine hours; instead, actual machine hours are about 87,296. This means that these tools, the most essential and most critical in the defense program, and of crucial importance to retooling the entire industry, are employed at no more than 35% of capacity." Thomas urged the Army, the Navy and other gov't agencies to "coordinate this reservoir of unused equipment"; it would provide the "key to the employment problems; it can be made the key to the solution of America's basic problem, producing arms to frustrate Nazi designs for world domination." It is noteworthy that Thomas made this statement 47 days before Pearl Harbor. Thomas also said, "The conception of 'business-as-usual' has triumphed in governmental agencies as well as in the industry."

To Win the War: Unified Command in Industry

There has been only a slight improvement in the machine tool situation lately. Sec'y Addes reports (Dec. 22) that tooling machines in 114 jobbing and captive tool and die shops showed 64.4% idleness, based on 7-day round-the-clock workweek. "Idle machines and idle men constitute a crime against civilization and democracy in this critical hour. It is high time to bring to book those men who are responsible for these inexcusable bottlenecks," said Addes. The men accused are all big corporation men, and incidentally big advertisers, which accounts for the almost universal newspaper silence on the great scandals of our time.

Frank advice to sabotage defense plans was given the newspapers by Father Coughlin's Fascist paper, Social Justice, when it said (July 28, 1941):

"It appears to Social Justice—itsself devoid of advertising—that the metropolitan dailies which have profited most from the automotive advertising dollar should campaign against this curtailment of production of American motor cars."

And the Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau reported (Dec 13) "Auto Makers (the companies) Look to Munitions for Profits" saying "Almost the first step to be taken by several companies was the cancellation of all advertising."

Since newspapers live on advertising, and automobile advertising is among the most important, the papers' hostility toward conversion of auto plants to defense production is a clear instance of profit superseding patriotism.

Labor has more than "destructive" criticism to offer, it also has a constructive program, a program to win the war. Sec'y Addes' plan for breaking the machine tool industry bottleneck follows:

"We propose that full authority be given to a central tool procurement agency to commandeer all idle machines and put them to work, whether in the plants where they are now set up or wherever they can best be used. This would also help break the employment bottleneck in our industry. Such an agency, to obtain the best results, should have representatives of management, labor and government, so that all angles will be considered by men of experience in each field. Pres Roosevelt and the heads of the allied nations are busily discussing a unified military command to conduct the war against the Axis to a victorious conclusion. A similar unified command is urgently needed on the machine tool front."

Employers Sabotage Bridges Plan

Most glaring example to date of employers sabotaging workers' efforts to speed up defense is what happened to the Bridges plan on the West Coast. The Pacific Coast is closest to the Japanese menace; its shipping is a vital factor in defense of the country; all-out efficiency in handling freight is of paramount importance. For six weeks Harry Bridges, leader of the waterfront workers, has been discussing with government officials that part of the Murray Industry Council plan which applies to waterfront work. He speeded up his activities when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, boiled the plan down to a simple, straightforward program. Objective: to double productivity in loading and unloading ships.

The employers made the plan public, in the Daily Commercial News, San Francisco, Dec 15. Ratification by both sides was expected in a few days, the article said. That night a huge meeting of CIO Longshoreman's local 1-10 adopted the plan with only one dissenting vote. Next day the San Francisco Chronicle quoted President Frank Foisie, of the Pacific Coast Waterfront Employers Association, as saying:

"We want to give Bridges every credit due him for his plan to secure maximum production on the docks. He is entitled to it. Bridges is correct when he says you can increase the fleet available from this coast by stepping up production on the docks."

Wage questions then pending were to go into direct negotiations. Bridges told the workers' meeting: "We are not bargaining over what contribution we can make to this war." Next day the Chronicle quoted union leaders telling longshore gangs: "We've got to give service. The union has been fighting the employers, but we are no longer fighting the employers for the duration."

The story of the "adoption" of the Bridges plan, first to be put into operation in the country, went abroad and was widely hailed. But then a hitch developed. As Leo Huberman writes in US Week:

"... parts of the Bridges plan were not acceptable to the employers. The

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provisions that called for sacrifices by the union—they were OK. But the provisions that might interfere with profits, or that called for a Government representative to be part of the set-up—these were not OK."

Huberman tells the story in detail, how the union went so far as to agree to the suspension of about one-third of its existing contracts, to suspension of working rules for which the union "had fought, struck and bled. Yet as an instance of its good faith, the union was willing to agree to a suspension of those rules, and at the same time allow the employers to reap their huge profits unimpeded." The union insisted that the third person on the council must officially represent the Government—and on this point, for over two weeks now, the waterfront employers have refused to yield, and the plan of speeding up war production on the entire Pacific Coast, which their own president had praised, remains on paper, except that the workers are doing their part.

Profits Booming Despite Increased Taxation

Despite increased taxes, profits of the big corporations are high. Washington bureau of Federated Press reports: "A recent study made by university professors declares: 'People who yell about high wages as inflationary are quiet as a mouse about tremendous upswing in profits. Yet high profits are dangerously inflationary.'" Gov't reports show that production is at least 40% higher than in peak year 1929. Profits of 808 industrial, commercial and public utility corporations for first 6 months of 1941 were 33% above the same period last year, despite increased taxes. Profit increases of 1,000% and more are on record. But it's labor unions that Congress wants to control, not profits."

United Aircraft issues this almost incredible report (Wall St Journal Dec 11 1941):

Sales, first 10 months..... \$236,000,000

Profits, after depreciation, amortization, retirement of emergency plant facilities, provision of \$4,500,000 for transformation from defense to peacetime economy, and other deductions but before federal taxes..... 59,000,000

General Motors for 11 months 1941 sold 17% more cars than for like period 1940. Its Sept 30 report states: "After deduction for income and excess profits tax, there remains net income available for dividends of \$42,997,929 in third quarter 1941 compared with \$15,597,030 in 1940." Previous report, March 15, states that foreign profits 1940 include \$15,682,460 earned by Adam Opel AG." Gross investment in Adam Opel was \$34,890,024 for each year. This is the General Motors German branch which worked for Hitler, manufacturing the stuff for the panzer divisions and paying dividends to GM stockholders, while Mr Knudsen made glowing statements to the press on the progress of Nazi Germany.

DuPont (Oct 25 1941): Operating revenues, \$130,033,618 for 3 months ending Sept 30, compared with \$91,797,317 for 1940.

Summing up the situation the Wall St Journal (which is openly and frankly pro-Big Business and pro-Nat'l Ass'n of Manufacturers whereas the standard newspapers are hypocritically so) states (Dec 15): "Earnings of industrial corporations have made substantial gains this year despite much heavier taxes." Authority is none other than the Federal Reserve Board. Its December report shows 416 companies earned 31% more than in like period of 1940, after taxes. "Largest profits increase took place in the iron and steel, aircraft, railway equipment (which makes tanks), general industrial machinery, automobile and automobile accessories industries."

Leon Henderson, testifying before Senate Banking & Currency Comm, declared corporate profits are 169% above 1939, and going up. According to U S Gov't economists manufacturers have raised their prices 17%, but only 7% are due to costs, including labor. The larger part, 10%, is added profits. Henderson, Isidore Lubin, U S Commissioner of Labor Statistics, agree that labor is not responsible for increased cost of living. Lubin testified (House Banking Comm) that labor costs in 1940 were lower than in 1937 because of increased production per worker. Output was 11.4% greater per man-hour.

Senator David I Walsh, chairman Senate Naval Affairs Comm, investigating contracts, said: "It is going to be an awful day of reckoning when the American people get the figures on defense profits."

500 criminals in the CIO. He listed 20 as samples. Labor-hating press, notably Howard's World-Telegram, placed this story on front page. This story was similar to the smears and distortions written by Westbrook Pegler. But a checkup by one pro-labor paper, PM, showed Dies falsified the facts in every one of the 15 cases investigated. Five cases could not be investigated. Dies therefore was proven 75% absolutely false; 100% probably false. This approximates the entire record of the Dies Committee. Nevertheless the press, which puts Dies falsehoods on Page 1, refuses to publish the facts anywhere.

Press Poison Antidote

WHEREAS the big city press (with 2 or 3 exceptions) upheld the National Ass'n of Manufacturers (NAM) and the Poll-Tax Congressmen in the attempt to smash union labor, even after Pearl Harbor when labor went all-out for defeating Hitlerism while manufacturers still fought for profits, it is again worth noting that the poison of the commercial newspapers frequently finds an antidote in the radio.

In a WOR forum native-American-fascist Howard Smith repeated all the falsehoods against labor, including the hoary lie that labor is to blame for strike violence. This is the kind of stuff that fills 99% of the press. But over the radio AFL representative Padway presented documentary facts and figures proving that Smith was wrong, also that "65 times as much delay is caused by the employers as by labor, in the defense industries," and CIO representative Lee Pressman declared that the Southern poll-tax Congressmen, working with the NAM and taking advantage of anti-labor hysteria caused by the press, were trying "to enslave American workers and abolish the basic American principles of democracy."

About 99% of the big press never permits labor to answer the NAM and its spokesmen in Congress. The radio does. The law requires it to do so.

Fascist Big Business

ONE of IN FACT's first subscribers, sending in his renewal, writes: "Enclosed is another dollar. Send me as many copies of your issue of Dec 15 as that will buy. I want to send it to a number of people who ought to read your summary of the program and activities of the National Ass'n of Manufacturers, or Fascist American Big Business, as you label it. What splendid work you are doing. And how thoroughly I approve it." The sender of this letter is Theodore Dreiser, America's leading writer and one of the titans of world literature.

Thanks

The response to George Seldes' recent statement literally swamped our office with thousands of renewals and new subscriptions. For us it was a reaffirmation that IN FACT is a success and that our subscribers are as enthusiastic as ever. Many of them wrote in telling us that they are going to renew at the new rate when their subscriptions expire. They felt that IN FACT was worth more than \$1 a year. There was no end to the letters of praise. The Winter Soldiers promised us that the increase in price would make no difference to them for they would "continue to keep getting subscriptions to the most exciting newsletter in America." Although our subscription rate has changed our goal remains the same—we are still shooting for that ¼ million circulation. And it can be reached! You can help by getting your friend to subscribe to IN FACT—the price is still low enough for nearly everyone to subscribe—less than two cents per copy.

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